

Office of Children's Services Out of Home Children

Data extracted Thursday December 10, 2015 from Alaska's ORCARPT database

Reporting period is the most recently completed Five Calendar Years

About the data in this report

This report summarizes statistics for children who were in Alaska's Office of Children's Services (OCS) Out of Home (OOH) removals during all or part of each period being reported.

Removal for OOH placement is the last option considered when reasonable efforts to protect a child in his or her own home have been exhausted by OCS. The first preference considered in all out-of-home placements for a child or youth is a relative's home. When it is not possible to place a child with a relative it is necessary to place the child in a licensed foster home. Residential care facilities may offer short-term emergency shelter as well as more long-term residential treatment.

Below are charts which present OOH data over time. Following the charts OOH data is presented in more detail by period, in reverse chronological order. Please refer to the end of this report for OCS Out of Home Web Report Field Definitions.

"Unique count" indicates that each child (or case, for case counts) is counted only once per reported category. However, some out of home individuals may have moved between regions during the reporting period. Therefore, regional demographic counts may not add to statewide Alaska totals.

Children removed on the first day of reporting periods are not included in beginning-of-period counts. Children discharged on the last day of reporting periods are not included in end-of-period counts.

Child age is calculated based on discharge date if the child was discharged during the reporting period, otherwise child age calculation is based on the end of the reporting period.

Native Status is determined by reported race of either Alaskan Native or Native American.

To protect the privacy of individuals in low-count groups, regional breakouts are not included for monthly reports and for some yearly summary tables.

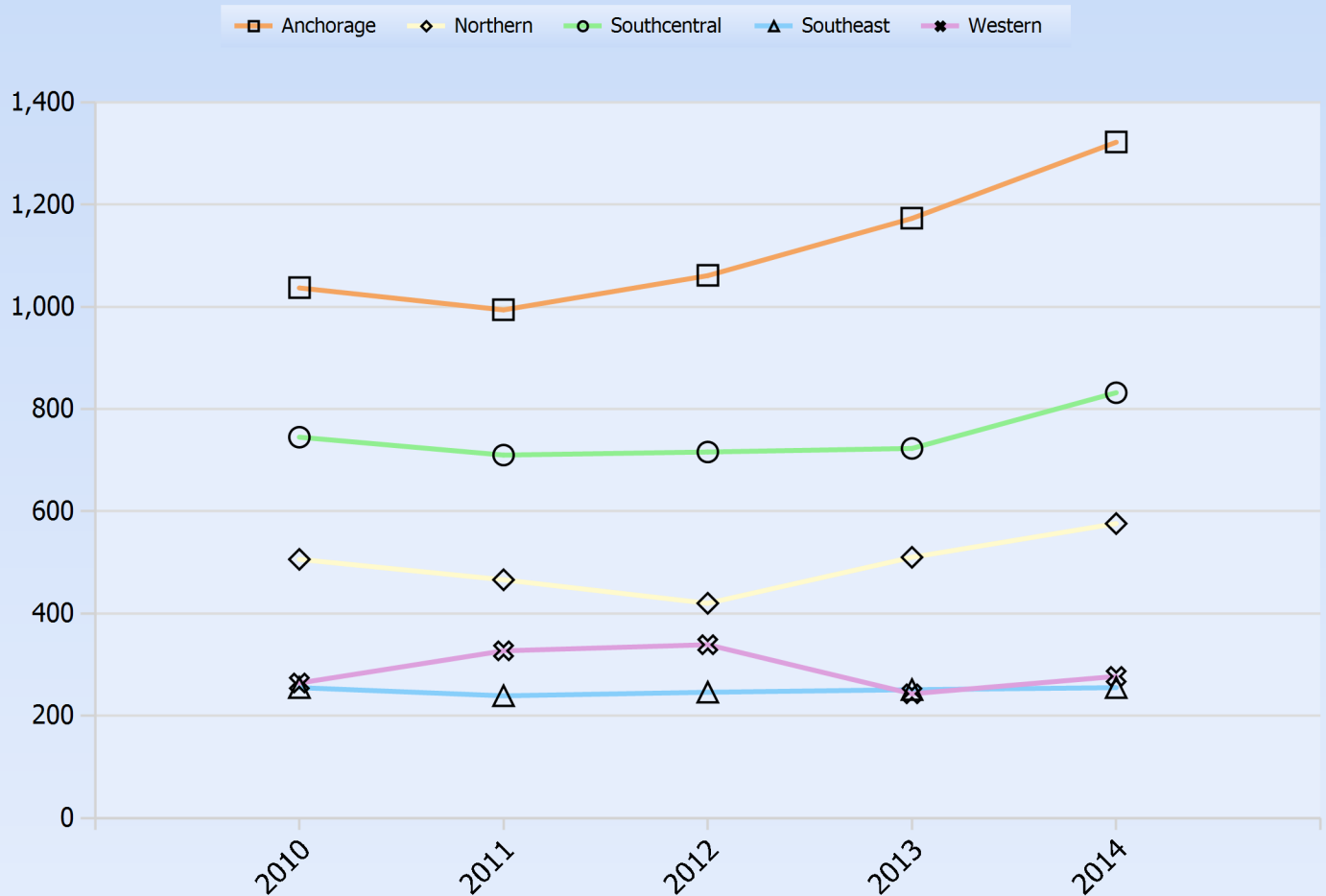
Subsequent reports covering the same reporting periods will contain updated statistics.

Unique Count* of Children in Alaska OCS Out-of-Home Placement during each of the Last Five Calendar Years by OCS Region

Region	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Anchorage	1,037	994	1,061	1,173	1,322
Northern	506	466	420	510	576
Southcentral	745	710	716	723	832
Southeast	255	239	246	251	255
Western	264	327	339	243	277
Alaska, unique count	2,805	2,734	2,777	2,899	3,255

* "Unique count" indicates that each child is counted only once per reported category. However, some out of home individuals may have moved between regions during the reporting period. Therefore, regional demographic counts may not add to statewide Alaska totals.

Unique Count of OCS Out of Home Children during the Last Five Calendar Years by OCS Region



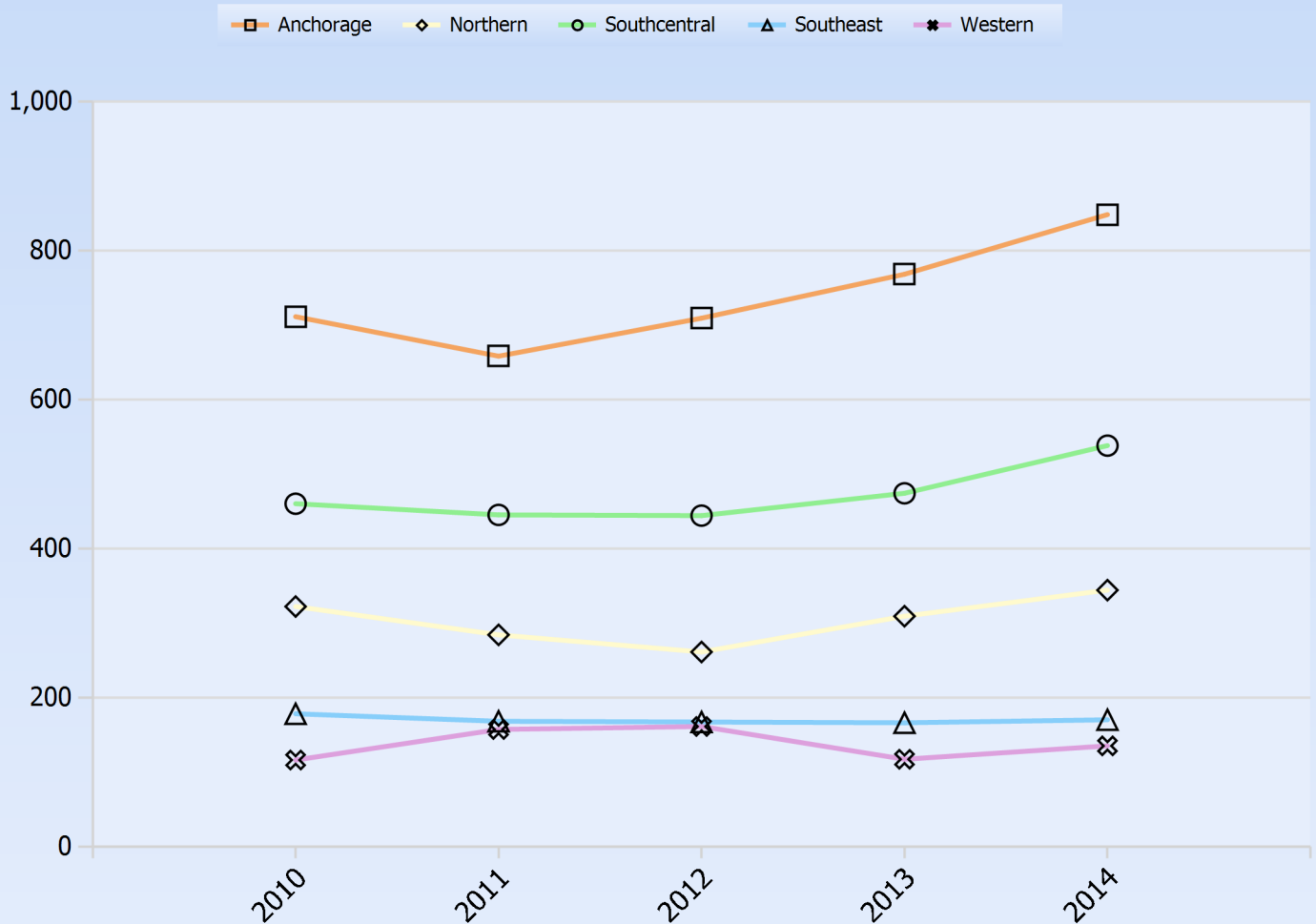
Updated December 10, 2015

Unique Count of OCS Out-of-Home Cases during each of the Last Five Calendar Years by OCS Region

Region	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Anchorage	711	658	709	768	848
Northern	322	284	261	309	344
Southcentral	460	445	444	474	538
Southeast	178	168	167	166	170
Western	116	157	161	117	135
Alaska, unique count	1,776	1,711	1,736	1,833	2,032

* "Unique count" indicates that each case is counted only once per reported category. However, some out of home individuals may have moved between regions during the reporting period. Therefore, regional demographic counts may not add to statewide Alaska totals.

Unique Count of OCS Out of Home Cases during the Last Five Calendar Years by OCS Region



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Alaska OCS Children Out of Home during 2014

Unique counts for the year	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
OOH children at start of year	800	351	496	154	153	1,954
OOH children at end of year	929	407	580	162	188	2,266
OOH children during year	1,322	576	832	255	277	3,255
OOH cases during year	848	344	538	170	135	2,032
Children removed during year	536	235	339	108	125	1,343
Children discharged during year	407	179	255	100	90	1,031

OOH Placement Setting at the end of year	
Foster Family Non-Relative Home	921
Foster Family Relative Home	856
Group Home	73
Institution	93
Other	14
Pending Discharge	28
Pre-Adoptive	44
Runaway	13
Supervised Independent Living	8
Trial Home Visit	216

Reason for all Discharges during the year	
Adoption	352
Child Aged Out	59
Custody Released to Relative	17
Death Of Child	2
Guardianship	37
Reunification	524
Runaway - Custody Released	15
Transfer To Another Agency	3
Transfer to DJJ	4
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	18

End-of-year OOH demographics	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
Male Child	477	197	278	79	97	1,128
Female Child	452	210	302	83	91	1,138
Child Age 0-2	232	92	143	38	31	536
Child Age 3-5	205	88	111	42	32	478
Child Age 6-8	165	78	94	26	35	398
Child Age 9-11	115	55	83	15	33	301
Child Age 12-14	95	52	64	16	27	254
Child Age 15+	117	42	85	25	30	299

Native Status of OOH children at end of year	
Native Child	1,344
Non-native Child	842
Child Race Unknown	80

Alaska OCS Children Out of Home during 2013

Unique counts for the year	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
OOH children at start of year	743	286	477	179	176	1,861
OOH children at end of year	805	348	495	155	151	1,954
OOH children during year	1,173	510	723	251	243	2,899
OOH cases during year	768	309	474	166	117	1,833
Children removed during year	440	232	260	77	69	1,078
Children discharged during year	378	170	242	101	94	985

OOH Placement Setting at the end of year	
Foster Family Non-Relative Home	842
Foster Family Relative Home	665
Group Home	78
Institution	99
Other	9
Pending Discharge	23
Pre-Adoptive	33
Runaway	13
Supervised Independent Living	6
Trial Home Visit	186

Reason for all Discharges during the year	
Adoption	355
Child Aged Out	33
Custody Released to Relative	17
Death Of Child	4
Guardianship	29
Released Self/Emancipation	2
Reunification	495
Runaway - Custody Released	34
Transfer to DJJ	4
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	12

End-of-year OOH demographics	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
Male Child	430	169	238	74	75	986
Female Child	374	179	257	81	76	967
Child Gender Unknown	1					1
Child Age 0-2	192	80	107	27	13	419
Child Age 3-5	183	73	96	30	30	412
Child Age 6-8	125	67	84	28	27	331
Child Age 9-11	91	44	63	28	22	248
Child Age 12-14	103	44	59	25	23	254
Child Age 15+	111	40	86	17	36	290

Native Status of OOH children at end of year	
Native Child	1,224
Non-native Child	701
Child Race Unknown	29

Alaska OCS Children Out of Home during 2012

Unique counts for the year	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
OOH children at start of year	653	297	473	135	232	1,790
OOH children at end of year	753	283	475	178	175	1,864
OOH children during year	1,061	420	716	246	339	2,777
OOH cases during year	709	261	444	167	161	1,736
Children removed during year	416	124	250	118	110	1,018
Children discharged during year	316	138	248	75	167	944

OOH Placement Setting at the end of year	
Foster Family Non-Relative Home	797
Foster Family Relative Home	646
Group Home	75
Independent Living	1
Institution	92
Other	15
Pending Discharge	20
Pre-Adoptive	27
Runaway	17
Supervised Independent Living	4
Trial Home Visit	170

Reason for all Discharges during the year	
Adoption	305
Child Aged Out	43
Custody Released to Relative	26
Death Of Child	2
Guardianship	23
Released Self/Emancipation	2
Reunification	496
Runaway - Custody Released	14
Transfer To Another Agency	2
Transfer to DJJ	3
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	28

End-of-year OOH demographics	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
Male Child	383	125	233	86	89	916
Female Child	369	158	242	92	86	947
Child Gender Unknown	1					1
Child Age 0-2	200	63	98	42	22	425
Child Age 3-5	149	71	95	34	36	385
Child Age 6-8	114	47	68	30	29	288
Child Age 9-11	98	34	71	27	24	254
Child Age 12-14	92	27	64	15	28	226
Child Age 15+	100	41	79	30	36	286

Native Status of OOH children at end of year	
Native Child	1,145
Non-native Child	693
Child Race Unknown	26

Alaska OCS Children Out of Home during 2011

Unique counts for the year	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
OOH children at start of year	630	308	486	182	181	1,787
OOH children at end of year	649	292	467	137	245	1,790
OOH children during year	994	466	710	239	327	2,734
OOH cases during year	658	284	445	168	157	1,711
Children removed during year	369	166	234	57	157	983
Children discharged during year	350	182	253	102	93	980

OOH Placement Setting at the end of year	
Foster Family Non-Relative Home	762
Foster Family Relative Home	640
Group Home	77
Institution	104
Other	9
Pending Discharge	19
Pre-Adoptive	18
Runaway	7
Supervised Independent Living	3
Trial Home Visit	151

Reason for all Discharges during the year	
Adoption	328
Child Aged Out	41
Custody Released to Relative	16
Death Of Child	2
Guardianship	29
Released Self/Emancipation	3
Reunification	523
Runaway - Custody Released	15
Transfer To Another Agency	1
Transfer to DJJ	3
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	19

End-of-year OOH demographics	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
Male Child	349	134	236	67	124	910
Female Child	300	158	231	70	121	880
Child Age 0-2	173	59	90	22	44	388
Child Age 3-5	116	87	109	26	42	380
Child Age 6-8	119	45	75	22	42	303
Child Age 9-11	70	33	65	18	43	229
Child Age 12-14	81	30	57	17	27	212
Child Age 15+	90	38	71	32	47	278

Native Status of OOH children at end of year	
Native Child	1,141
Non-native Child	621
Child Race Unknown	28

Alaska OCS Children Out of Home during 2010

Unique counts for the year	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
OOH children at start of year	712	346	479	170	196	1,903
OOH children at end of year	632	303	489	183	181	1,788
OOH children during year	1,037	506	745	255	264	2,805
OOH cases during year	711	322	460	178	116	1,776
Children removed during year	337	167	269	89	80	942
Children discharged during year	417	210	259	76	95	1,057

OOH Placement Setting at the end of year	
Foster Family Non-Relative Home	782
Foster Family Relative Home	583
Group Home	71
Independent Living	1
Institution	85
Other	18
Pending Discharge	47
Pre-Adoptive	15
Runaway	13
Supervised Independent Living	3
Trial Home Visit	170

Reason for all Discharges during the year	
Adoption	354
Child Aged Out	44
Custody Released to Relative	10
Death Of Child	1
Guardianship	34
Released Self/Emancipation	6
Reunification	573
Runaway - Custody Released	23
Transfer to DJJ	2
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	10

End-of-year OOH demographics	Anchorage	Northern	Southcentral	Southeast	Western	Statewide
Male Child	328	155	243	94	83	903
Female Child	304	148	246	89	98	885
Child Age 0-2	167	82	97	32	23	401
Child Age 3-5	133	59	107	36	35	370
Child Age 6-8	93	57	82	29	32	293
Child Age 9-11	79	38	64	27	30	238
Child Age 12-14	68	26	60	24	27	205
Child Age 15+	92	41	79	35	34	281

Native Status of OOH children at end of year	
Native Child	1,110
Non-native Child	658
Child Race Unknown	20

OCS Out of Home Web Report Field Definitions

Adoption – Transfer of the legal relation of parent to a person not related to the child by birth, with the same mutual rights and obligations that existed between the child and his or her birth parents.

Case - A household unit included in one or more Initial Assessment.

Day - For purposes of Foster Care a day is midnight to midnight. This report counts a child as Out of Home on the day of Removal but not on the day of Discharge. Therefore, children discharged on the first day of the reporting period will not be included in counts for the start of that reporting period.

Discharge - The point in time when a child is no longer in Out of Home Care.

Guardianship - A person outside of the child's household fulfills some of the responsibilities of a legal parent while the courts or birthparents may continue to hold other legal responsibilities for the child. Guardianship is subject to ongoing supervision by the court and ends by court order or when the child reaches the age of majority. Guardianship may be used as an alternative to Adoption in some kinship care situations in which a child's relative is assuming a parental role but prefers not to adopt. Guardians may be entitled to the same benefits as Foster or Adoptive parents.

Native Child - Any mention of Alaska Native or American Indian race.

Office of Children's Services (OCS) - A division of Alaska's Department of Health and Social Services.

ORCA - Online Resources for the Children of Alaska, OCS's main database.

Out-of-Home Placement (OOH or OOHP) / Removal: Placing the child in the physical care of someone other than the child's Caregiver. Removal may include situations in which the child is living in the same residence as the Caregiver, but the Caregiver's ability to exercise physical care and control of the child

Placement - The physical setting in which a child resides after Removal; that is, the resultant Foster Care setting. A new Placement setting results when the Foster Care setting changes, for example, when a child moves from one Foster family home to another or to a Group Home or Institution.

Region, as used in this Out of Home report - One of areas of five Alaska, based on the office of the primary OCS worker responsible for the Case at Discharge or, if not Discharged during the period, at the end of the reporting period.

Removal - The physical act of a child being taken from his or her normal place of residence, by court order or a voluntary placement agreement, and placed in a substitute care setting, or the removal of Custody from the parent or relative Guardian pursuant to a court order or voluntary placement agreement which permits the child to remain in a substitute care setting.

Reporting Period – Complete month or calendar year, as specified in the report. Owing to Unique Counts, data reported on a monthly basis will not necessarily sum to annual figures.

Unique Count – An unduplicated count within the Reporting Period; that is, each person, ID, or combination of person or ID with other factors is counted only once regardless of the number of times represented within the reported group during the reporting period. For example, a child out of home in two regions during a reporting period will be counted once for each region where region is being reported, but only once where count for all of Alaska is being reported. Therefore total of all regions may not equal statewide count.

Discharge Reasons:

- **Adoption** - Termination of all legal relationships between the adopted person and the natural parents and other relatives of the adopted person, so that the adopted person thereafter is a stranger to the former relatives for all purposes; to create the relationship of parent and child between petitioner and the adopted person, as if the adopted person were a legitimate blood descendant of the petitioner, for all purposes.
- **Child Aged Out** – Child between 18-21 exited OCS custody based on their age. Child may enter an independent living arrangement. .
- **Custody Released to Relative** - Legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child has been transferred to a relative of the child.
- **Death of Child** – The child has died, not necessarily as a result of maltreatment.
- **Guardianship** - A legal arrangement where a person or institution is appointed as a guardian to make decisions for an incapacitated person - decisions about housing, medical care, legal issues, and services.
- **Reunification** - Discharge from Out of Home Placement to reunite child and family.
- **THV Expired - Custody Retained** – A trial home visit exceeded six months or a time period ordered by a court. If a trial home visit exceeds this time limit, or if a child is placed at home and custody lapses and the child is placed in out-of-home care again, it is considered a second removal from home,
- **Transfer to another Agency** – Transfer of child Legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child to a tribe or other non-OCS entity.
- **Transfer to DJJ** – Transfer of Legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child to Alaska's Department of Juvenile Justice, an agency is in the same Department as OCS. DJJ has a different database of record, but OCS is responsible for paying Foster Care for these children.
- **Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction** - Legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child was transferred to a Native tribe.

Placement Settings:

- **Foster Home** - An OCS approved home in which an adult head of the household provides 24-hour care on a continuing basis to one or more children who are apart from their principal Caregiver. The adult may be a Relative or Non-Relative. Non-relative Foster Homes must be licensed by OCS.
- **Group Home** - A home that cares for more than three, but no more than eight, children unrelated to the Foster parent.
- **Institution** - A child care facility operated by a public or private agency and providing 24-hour care and/or treatment for children who require separation from their own homes and group living experience. These facilities may include: child care institutions, residential treatment facilities, maternity homes, nursing homes, hospitals, etc.
- **Missing Documentation** – A placement was ended but insufficient information was entered into ORCA to determine subsequent placement setting.
- **Pending Discharge** - Foster Care placement has ended for reasons such as Adoption, Guardianship, Aging-Out, Emancipation, Death of Child, or other reason to release State legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child, but Discharge paperwork had not been completed at the end of the Reporting Period.
- **Pre-Adoptive** - A home in which a child is placed with a family with the understanding that the family plans to adopt the child.
- **Runaway** – A child who left the Provider he/she was placed with, whose whereabouts are either currently unknown or who is staying in an unapproved setting, and for whom the State retains legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child.
- **Supervised Independent Living** – A type of voluntary extended Foster Care placement where young adults can live on their own, while still getting casework and support services to help them become independent and self-sufficient.
- **Trial Home Visit (THV)** – The child has been in a Foster Care placement, but, under continuing OCS supervision, is returned to the child's principal Caregiver for a limited period of time. If the THV is successful legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child may be returned to the principal Caregiver.